

Findings from activity where participants were asked to look at a series of data points and brainstorm “potential causes” – both within the system and at the youth level, as to why the data looked as it did. We’ve then connected these back to the Six Citywide Goals to get a clearer picture of the levers, that if pulled, would move us towards more successful outcomes for this population

Data Category	Potential/Hypothesized “Causes” of Data	Goal
Crime	Lack of value teaching in schools; Emphasis on testing rather than learning or lifeskills building.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Crime	Lack of activities during out of school time leads to crime.	Goal 4: Children & Youth are Engaged in Meaningful Activities
Crime	Justice system recycles young criminals	Goal 4: Children & Youth are Engaged in Meaningful Activities
Crime	Lack of adequate enforcement	Goal 4: Children & Youth are Engaged in Meaningful Activities
Crime	Lack of guidance/mentorship	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Crime	Instability in the home	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Crime	Negative examples being set by individuals close to children.	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Crime	Poverty and Recession	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Lack of data sources looking at critical transition points - 6th and 9th grades. Could use to identify those at risk of dropping out.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Lack of support services for youth struggling in academics.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Not all schools are high quality; Differing resources and achievement gaps.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Differing expectations across schools - principals and administrators don't communicate expectations.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Inflexible school bureaucracy - unable or unwilling or lack of resources to address youth needs.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Class sizes are too big in DCPS.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School

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Graduation Rates and Truancy	Emphasis on Testing rather than learning does not encourage attendance or satisfaction.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	No one person is responsible for ensuring youth overcome barriers preventing attendance.	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Lack of a caring adult in a child's life.	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Teen Motherhood	Lack of sex education in school	Goal 2: Children & Youth Succeed in School
Teen Motherhood	Lack of access to contraceptives	Goal 3: Children & Youth are Healthy and Practice Healthy Behaviors
Teen Motherhood	Lack of activities during out of school time contributes to teen pregnancy.	Goal 4: Children & Youth are Engaged in Meaningful Activities
Teen Motherhood	Peer pressure	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Teen Motherhood	Family instability	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Teen Motherhood	Lack of self-esteem	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Youth Unemployment	Health issues and disability, lead exposure and teen pregnancy - lead to unemployment.	Goal 3: Children & Youth are Healthy and Practice Healthy Behaviors
Youth Unemployment	Lack of childcare	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Youth Unemployment	Lack of encouragement from family to be career oriented.	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Youth Unemployment	Lack of affordable housing	Goal 5: Children & Youth Live in Healthy, Stable, and Supportive Families
Youth Unemployment	Lack of preparation for students to be career ready.	Goal 6: All Youth Make a Successful Transition into Adulthood

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Youth Unemployment	Challenges with SYEP	Goal 6: All Youth Make a Successful Transition into Adulthood
Youth Unemployment	Adults taking entry level opportunities	Goal 6: All Youth Make a Successful Transition into Adulthood
Youth Unemployment	Age bias by employers; college interns working for free taking second jobs.	Goal 6: All Youth Make a Successful Transition into Adulthood
Youth Unemployment	DC economy focus on professions rather than jobs.	Goal 6: All Youth Make a Successful Transition into Adulthood
Youth Unemployment	Employers don’t take ownership cultivating workforce.	Goal 6: All Youth Make a Successful Transition into Adulthood

	Other Potential Causes Identified	
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Lack of vision for youth education continuum (Pre-K through College)	n/a
Graduation Rates and Truancy	Social promotion over academic promotion a concern for young people	n/a
Youth Unemployment	Lack of transportation to work	n/a
Youth Unemployment	Recession	n/a
Youth Unemployment	Benefit dropoffs	n/a
Teen Motherhood	Pressure from the media	n/a
Teen Motherhood	Public benefits for motherhood	n/a